



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Start Seat Belt Enforcement

In Virginia in 2011, 16 people died in traffic accidents the first weekend in May. Almost half of those were not wearing seatbelts or did not properly restrain children passengers in safety seats.

“It takes just a few seconds to click the seatbelt and possibly save a person or child from serious injury or death.” said Culpeper Police Chief Chris Jenkins.

From May 20 through June 2, Culpeper Police plan to conduct grant-funded saturation patrols looking for seatbelt violations. The department will also conduct a traffic checking detail during this period as part of the annual Click-It-Or-Ticket initiative.

Last year’s checking detail screened 942 and 76 traffic summonses were issued for various violations, including seatbelts.

Seat belt laws are in place to save lives. The Click-It-or-Ticket campaign is designed to reinforce that message.

The upcoming Memorial Day holiday is the first major summer holiday of the season. Families often take to the road to relax and enjoy whatever their summer vacation destination has to offer. Some will not make it to that vacation or back home.

During the 2012 Memorial Day weekend from May 25-28, nine people lost their lives on Virginia roadways. In about eight of those crashes either a passenger or driver was not wearing a seatbelt, according to the Virginia State Police.

“Warmer weather and an upcoming holiday weekend usually mean more people on the road,” said Capt, Ricky Pinksaw. “Take a few seconds and make sure you and all your passengers are buckled up.”

According to DMV, 764 people lost their lives on Virginia’s highways in 2011, of those, 306 or, 40 percent were unrestrained.

“There is no reason that many people should die because they didn’t take the time to buckle up,” said Chief Jenkins. “Using a seatbelt is the single most important way for you or your family to avoid serious injury or death.”

According to state code, any driver and any other person at least 18 years of age, and occupying the front seat of a motor vehicle with a safety belt system, shall wear the safety belt at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion on any public highway. Children under the age of 8 are required by law to be in a safety seat (such as a booster seat) while traveling in a vehicle.

“Back seat passengers need to buckle up as well,” said Chief Jenkins. “They are not immune from injury or death during a crash.”

The police department offers assistance with the installation of child safety seats free of charge.

“Take time to buckle up,” said Jenkins. “It could save a life.”

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